



Rules of Attraction

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Carlos Fuentes doesn't want any part of the life his older brother, Alex, has laid out for him in Boulder, Colorado. He wants to keep living on the edge, and carve his own path-just like Alex did. Unfortunately, his ties to a Mexican gang aren't easy to break, and he soon finds himself being set up by a drug lord.

When Alex arranges for Carlos to live with his former professor and his family to keep him from being sent to jail, Carlos feels completely out of place. He's even more thrown by his strong feelings for the professor's daughter, Kiara, who is nothing like the girls he's usually drawn to. But Carlos and Kiara soon discover that in matters of the heart, the rules of attraction overpower the social differences that conspire to keep them apart.

As the danger grows for Carlos, he's shocked to discover that it's this seemingly All-American family who can save him. But is he willing to endanger their safety for a chance at the kind of life he's never even dreamed possible?

Rules of Attraction Details

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From Reader Review Rules of Attraction for online ebook

Tedy says

Bulgarian review: <https://bookishipster.wordpress.com/2...>

The second book in the 'Perfect Chemistry' trilogy was just as lovely as the first one. Even though Carlos was a bit annoying at first and a little bit different than his brother, i still enjoyed 'Rules of Attraction' very much. I liked Carlos and Kiara's relationship, they had some really cute moments and i loved the family atmosphere in this book. It was nothing special, but still really cute and lovely.

Ari says

"You're dangerous."he says.

"Why?"

"Because you make me believe in the impossible."

Sometimes I wish I would have started by reading this book before "Perfect chemistry" because I am sure I would have liked this one a lot better.. and indeed this book is great. I must confess that I felt in love with "Perfect Chemistry" and now it's so damn hard not to compare them, but I'll give it a try.

I should start by saying that I was NOT disappointed by this book, and it was a great pleasure to read it. If you just keep in mind that this is another book, and just stop comparing them, you will see that this book will give you the same amount of joy after reading it as the first one. I didn't get to read an amazing love story, but I got to read a really funny one, and deep into my heart it was the same feeling of delight.

Even though the romantic part of the story was not as great as I expected it to be (something was missing and I don't really know what that might be), there were some other things about this book that I really loved:

- the hilarious little brother Kiara has, that turns every scene with him into a comedy;
- Kiara's best friend who is smart and funny and it was always a pleasure to read his lines (I would love to have a best friend like him.. and I might think that the fact that hi is gay is really part of his charm);
- the family relationship it's amazing, I want some parents like that;
- also there were some sweet moments between Kiara and Carlos that i liked a lot;
- Oh, and I love that we get to see Alex and Brittany in this book too <3

I can't really say that there are things that I don't like, but I don't know why I couldn't relate to the love story.

Maybe (in books) I don't like the really-nice-girls, and the not-so-bad-boys because they are a bit boring (now i said it). In the previous book the chemistry was so great (and I know that now I'm comparing them, I just can't help it) and that might be why I just felt that something was missing here. There was no real danger (and i missed it), and I missed the "flirty" attitude of the main characters from the first book.. and also some character seemed to be there just to fill in the space (like for example the "beautiful Madison")

All in one, if you ask me if it's worth reading this book, well I think it is. I think that it's hard for a book to have a great romance in it and to be really funny and appealing to all people, and this book had a lot of competition with "Perfect chemistry" on our hands... But Simone E. is doing a good job and with every new book she gets better at it.

4.5 stars - Can't wait for the next one :)

This review can be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com

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Haleema says

I am not in love with Carlos Fuentes. I do not want him. I don't think about him all the time--

Just kidding.

Even though I do feel the same way about Carlos, I'm not going to mention it. I'm going to *try* to control myself this time.

TRY.

Miss Simone Elkeles is officially one of my favorite authors now. I love her damn work! I love her characters. I want to meet her so badly. That woman knows what she's talking about. I finished this whole book in one day. All 324 pages of it. I eat it all up, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Why are her books so damn good!? I'll tell you why. Sit down, folks. Sit down.

1. I don't care how cliche her stories are. I don't care how one can predict what can happen. I don't care. Her characters are too damn developed for that. They're too damn funny, thoughtful, emotional, and complex for that. It can be as cliche as Elkeles wishes, she's still good at voice and character development. I forgot all the things about love stories that annoy me the most. I was too distracted by her awesome writing and characters.

2. Even though *Rules of Attraction* is super unrealistic, it was truly adorable. Yeah, yeah. Bad boy falls in love with good girl, we've seen that plenty of times. Then why I'm I LOVING THIS SO MUCH?! Because Elkeles wrote this with such beauty and emotion. I love Carlos so much. Yes, he's a jerk and super annoying, but I still love him for what's inside him. Cheesy, I know. What can I do? I'm hypnotized. This was my same reaction with *Perfect Chemistry*.

3. Just like Alex and Brittany, I like how Carlos and Kiara's romance developed. It was so sweet. Their relationship was more fun than Alex and Brittany's, in my opinion. I can feel so much sexual tension just by their little pranks, and I love that. The cookie/locker prank made me laugh my buttocks off. I love Kiara for that, and I love how Carlos played it cool and got her back. It was so adorable. Although, at times, I felt like their romance was too rushed, I love how there were small events that strengthened it.

1. Locker prank - hilarious
2. Mountain climb/almost kiss where they both can't stop thinking about each other
3. Modeling session where Kiara feels sexual tension *oh sexual tension yes*
4. Game when Carlos finds out he doesn't want Kiara to be with another guy *swoon*
5. Make-out session at Kiara's house, where they both realize they've fallen in love
6. Homecoming where they--- you know the rest, don't you?

I loved those events. However, it's not completely oh-so-perfect-I-know-what-I'm-doing moments. I love how uncertain Kiara was about where to touch Carlos. It showed that some girls really are clueless and shy and not everything goes by wonderfully. It was the same when Brittany felt the pain of sex back in the first book. Even though both the boys had sex in the most weirdest/dirtiest/why the hell would you do it there kinds of places. Alex - floor of Enrique's auto shop Carlos - at the lake house in the rain, they didn't seem to care. I mean, as long as they're together. I wouldn't want to do that, though.

Carlos is hilarious. I want to smack him, then kiss him because I smacked him, then smack him again for kissing him. Alex and Carlos are so alike. Well, Alex is twenty in this book so he's changed. Back when he was seventeen, though, like Carlos, he was just the same. They were both snarky, egotistical, insanely confident, and slightly rude. However, they were the life of the books. I loved them. If only guys like that existed. Nah... Guys suck most of the time. Too sad.

I thought *Rules of Attraction* was better than *Perfect Chemistry* because of Carlos. Besides his immense sexual appeal, tattoos, confidence, bad boy attitude, (which always attract me), I thought he was hilarious. His sense of humor was dirty and wacked up, but the best. I loved Kiara as well. Brittany didn't astonish me. I didn't like her much. Meh. Kiara is strong, intelligent, and knows what she's doing.

One problem was that I felt like she shouldn't have had sex with Carlos before marriage. I felt like she would probably stick to her terms, that her good girl image would stay and change things. I don't know if she was planning on abstaining, but most likely she would have. I'm just assuming. It would have been nice to see at least one couple actually waiting for marriage to come and being patient. I mean, one thing I would probably change about Elkeles's stories is to have her characters actually have sex after marriage. My respect for them would have increased more, but realistically speaking, it would make sense for them to have sex before marriage. Since when do teens in general wait? Yeah, no. Not going to happen.

Another thing I would change is the cover. I mean, it's a little too... yeah. I mean, I know they could be naked, but I just wished there would be more meaning to the cover than just two people kissing. Maybe gazing into each other's eyes and blocking out the world. *cheese*

I also liked this one better because of how their romance developed. The events were a lot more cuter and more fun for me, as a reader. I'm more of a playful girl who likes to have fun. Carlos and Kiara had so much fun. I'm not saying Alex and Brittany didn't. Brittany just felt like a drama queen to me, and kinda controlled what Alex did. It felt like she was asking him to confess his love all the time. Kiara just went with the flow and waited for Carlos to confess his love. She was patient and understanding.

Anyway, another one of my favorites. I loved it. I'm planning on reading her *Paradise* books as well. I hope I enjoy them just as much as I enjoyed this series.

Nina ♥ says

AHHH! This sounds even better than the first book! YES!

Carlos, you smexy pie, come here, LET ME LOVE YOUUUUUUUU!!!

I can't believe I just said that. God, he's such a hottie stud muffin.

Okay, I'm clearly still in fangirl mode, so. I'll come back later. :3

Jo says

If you haven't read

Perfect Chemistry by Ms Elkeles... there may be spoilers ahead.

"Want to get in trouble with me, Carlos?"

Initial Final Page Thoughts.

OK, so I have to admit I originally picked this book up with every intention of laughing *at* it as opposed to *with* it.

But Ms Elkeles definitely got the last laugh because this book and I had a whale of a time together and I'm thinking of proposing soon.

Also:

Some Things I Will Never Understand.

Why some girls (and some boys...) wear leggings as pants. How they get the tiny writing to go all the way through Blackpool Rock. Dr Who. My 8 times table. Olly Murs. Why so many people prefer Perfect Chemistry over this book.

I don't know whether I have to hand in my YA reader card in to someone or get a strike against my name or something... but I much much muuuuuch preferred this book.

High Points.

Carlos. Kiara. Being a badass. Perky privates. Shared bathrooms. Mountain walks. Homecoming dances. Lake side canoodles. Magnetic cookies. *Chicas*. Cowboys. The Ultimate Queers. Mr Westford's Home for Wayward Boys. Swapping germs.

Low Points.

I didn't really like the whole gangbanger (LOL) thing in this book. In Perfect Chemistry it worked with Alex's character but with Carlos it just seemed like Ms Elkeles was like "Meep, we need more angst. I know... I'll add a gang! That worked for the first one!"

Also... the whole pretend boyfriend/girlfriend thing. I have no idea why Carlos and Kiara did that at all. It just seemed a bit random....

I probably don't need to tell you that the epilogue made me want to claw my eyes out *but* not as much as the first one.

Hero.

Hola Carlos.

Oh wait... sorry, I know you don't like white kids try and sound Mexican. I'm sorry but you might have to get over that if we're going to hang out because I like to pretend I'm Mexican on a regular basis. I thought you were going to be a mini-version of Ale-ale-Alejandro but, by gum, was I wrong about you! Maybe I have a defective girl gene because Alex never did anything for me but Carlos, amigo... sorry friend... you were a million times better. Especially in this book because yawn, Alex. Have you always been so dull?

I thought you were a much more entertaining narrator than your older ~~hermano~~ brother. Where he was funny, you were hysterical. Where he was a bit cheeky, you were a full on rummon. Where he was cute with Brittany, you were a bona fide BOTS (Bringer of the Swoon) with Kiara.

Also you said things like this:

“Ever since I got fired from the sugar mill two months ago, I’ve lived *la vida loca*.”

“Whether Alex wants to admit it or not, being a badass is my legacy.”

“Hell, I could write a book on kissing *chicas* if I wanted to.”

(For the record, I would be all over that book like a rash.)

PERFECTO.

I mean... um perfect.

So yeah, whatever with your Ale-Ale-Alejandro.

I’m a Carlos girl, through and through.

Heroine.

And so, it seems, is our Kiara.

Oh what a little sweetheart.

I wish my occasional stutter was as endearing as yours. I also wish I had a sexy Latina in the next room that walked around in his undies... maybe one day.

I was nervous about you when I read the synopsis.

Oh she’s shy. Oh and she has a stutter. Oh and she wears oversized t-shirts. She’s really awkward. And don’t even mention the fact that she has a ponytail... eeerrrurrg. What kind of self-respecting girl wears a ponytail?!

But don’t worry because a sexy Latina is going to bring her out of her shell.

So what did our sexy Latina do to bring Kiara out of her shell?

Nada.

Sorry.... Nothing.

Because she did it all on her own.

I loved that she gave as good as she got and never let Carlos get away with crossing the line. Also, even though I kinda wanted a make-over scene, I liked that Kiara didn’t change anything about herself and Carlos didn’t push it.

He didn’t make her change out of her oversized t-shirts and tell her she had car grease all over her face and he only asked her to put on high heels because he’s a bit of a perve. But that’s why we love him!

Also, I loved how she was just as naughty as Carlos.

That bit in her parent’s living room?!

Eh up.

You know what they say about the quiet ones....~~we’re awesome~~.

Theme Tune.

Ego by Beyonce.

"I want to make sure Kiara's got a boyfriend who has more to offer than a hot bod and a face that could make angels weep."

LOL.

Oh Carlos, I love your ego.

Also Beyonce looks fit in this video it makes me want to cry.

Sadness Scale.

3/10.

Unless you find all the Alejandro and Brittany ANGST seeping into this story heart breaking you'll be absolutely fine.

Although.... There *is* a brief mention of Paco.

PACOOOOO.

Recommended For.

People who were born to be a badass. People who think that just kissing in the rain is too tame. People who like orange marmalade cookies. People who will never stop using random Spanish words incorrectly in conversation.

You can read this review and lots of other exciting things on my blog here.

Kaila says

4/5 stars

"Look at me, chica." When she does, I repeat, "Eres hermosa."

"What does it mean?"

"You're beautiful."

Aww!! This book was just too sweet. Angsty teens, a school mean girl, the gay best friend, first loves and the perfect homecoming... this book epitomises everything I enjoy about YA romance.

It's been so long since I read *Perfect Chemistry* (no, really, it's been like two or three years) and I've only now finished the second book. *Rules of Attraction* follows Carlos, Alex's brother, in his very rebellious yet redeeming love story. Carlos doesn't want to turn out like his brother who is completely whipped for his girlfriend. Instead, Carlos wants to live on the edge, continue his gang life and sleep with as many girls as he wants. Carlos has been made to move to Colorado to live with his brother, but he is determined to make it clear that he doesn't want to be there and won't act like the snobby, privileged kids at his school. In a whole

big misunderstanding, Carlos is accused of possessing drugs and is forced to join the REACH program for at risk teens. He is also forced to live with a professor/ psychologist and his All-American family.

"It's not natural for a guy to be with one girl, Alex. I'm a free agent and I plan to stay one forever."

Yeah, sure Carlos, whatever you say! Let me just tell you, he didn't have the same opinion by the end of the book!

Kiara, the daughter of the professor, is not like most other girls. She loves hiking, vintage cars and sports. She's proud of her differences, but at the same time she just wants to fit in, find more friends and stop her stuttering. Kiara doesn't fall for Carlos' charms at first and instead formed a sort of respect and even friendship with him. **Though, this is a romance book so how long is that supposed 'friendship' really going to last?**

This book was just so fun and snarky! I mean, what else can you expect from a bunch of rowdy teenagers with serious attitude problems? There were so many one-liners which just made me laugh so hard! For me, this book just had an overall positive feel to it, I was happy whilst reading it. **I was laughing out loud, rooting for the characters from the start and cooing at all the sweet moments.** Because of the positive vibes, I just flew through this book! When I got to the last chapter I couldn't believe that I'd actually gotten that far because I was just so immersed in the story! **This is one of the best feel-good books that I've read so far this year.**

"We kiss all the time." I clear my throat, then add, **"We just...do it in private."**

"A smug expression crosses his face. "I don't buy it for a second, 'cause if you were my girlfriend and a stud like me was livin' in your house, I'd kiss you in front of the guy every chance I got as a reminder."

"A reminder of w-w-what?"

"That you were mine."

The characters in this book were my favourite element without a doubt. The plot line wasn't too original or fast-paced, so the story really fell onto the shoulders of the characters. Carlos and Kiara's relationship was just angst enough to get me anticipating their coming together, but not so much so that it made the book frustrating. **As soon as the pair met, they formed this fun banter and playful side to their relationship which made me smile from ear to ear! They're dynamic was just so great!** The couple had sweet moments, angry moments and accepting moments; they were the complete package and an absolutely satisfying duo to read about.

Karia and Carlos were not the only great characters though, I totally believe that some of the minor characters stole the show. I loved the return of Brittany and Alex and how they contributed just enough to bring back some nostalgia, but not too much that they overshadowed Carlos and Kiara. I even enjoyed the parental characters in this book, which is definitely rare in YA books where the parents are generally dead, abusive or just not around. I think my favourite character (besides Carlos and Kiara) would have to be Tuck! He was just an all-round hilarious guy. Tuck was Kiara's gay best friend who was loud, bold and downright hilarious. He was one of the only characters who didn't put up with Carlos' shit (that kid had some

undeniable attitude problems).

"Fifty percent of all doctors graduate in the bottom half of their class - Hope your surgery went well!"

Just take a moment to appreciate Tuck's "get well soon" message to Carlos!

I really enjoyed this book on a whole, however, I can't give it a higher rating because there were just so many cliche and predictable parts in the book. I never expected the book to be unique or life-changing, but I did at least want a plot line more different from the last book. Even though I read *Perfect Chemistry* a long I've ago, I distinctly remember many scenes that were very similar to the ones in this book. In saying that, there were also many differences that I can appreciate. For one, Kiara and Brittany are completely different characters which is a main reason why I chose to mostly overlook the major similarities.

Overall, this book was entertaining, light and romantic. I'm so glad that I finally picked this book up!

"I wish I could help you" I whisper.

"You are," he murmurs against my knee. "just dont leave me, okay? Everyone leaves me."

Kristi says

Rules of Attraction is the companion novel to Perfect Chemistry. The main characters in Perfect Chemistry are Alex and Brittany, the main characters in Rules of Attraction are Carlos (Alex's little brother) and Kiara. That being said, you don't necessarily have to read Perfect Chemistry first.

I loved Perfect Chemistry, there is something about it that is so very addictive, so when I heard that Elkeles was writing another novel about Alex's little brother, I knew I was in for a treat. Perfect Chemistry is still my favorite but Rules of Attraction was also fantastic!

I'm a complete sap for the bad ass guy with the good heart. I don't know what it is but ay dios mio, I can't get enough! And Carlos definitely knew how to play the bad ass guy card.

Both Carlos and Kiara are complex characters, Kiara might seem like the easier of the two to figure out, but she definitely has some hidden depths. Carlos seems like the bad guy on the outside, and he's made plenty of mistakes to get himself labeled as such, but his bad guy image isn't his problem. His problem is his pride. I loved getting to see that change throughout the novel.

I didn't think the relationship between Carlos and Kiara flowed as nicely as it had with Alex and Brittany in PC. It seemed a little abrupt and rushed, I never felt like I witnessed that "falling in love" moment. I was a little disappointed on that front, but nonetheless, I still reveled in seeing these two get together.

The ending might have come a little too fast and it was just a little unbelievable, not to mention there was

another cheesy prologue (that I just ATE UP! I do love the cheese) but it just makes you feel all warm and tingly inside. And darn it, sometimes I just want to feel warm and tingly!

Overall Rules of Attraction was wonderfully written, with intriguing characters and a captivating love story. I'm ready for book three, please.

Lady Jayne *~*The Beach Bandida*~* says

4 Stars - Also reviewed at: Lady Jayne's Reading Den

(This is an Adult-who-enjoys-reliving-the-stirrings-of-first-love-and-self-discovery-during-the-teen-years-through-YA books review)

****CONTENT WARNING - Since this is a YA book I will include a warning that this book contains some Sexual, Drug and Alcohol, Course Language and Violent Content - Recommended for Older Teens and Adults who enjoy YA books****

Rules of Attraction is the sequel to Perfect Chemistry, and the second book in the “Fuentes Brothers Trilogy”.

I really love the cover of this book - Very HOT and romantic! I don't know what it is about kissing in the rain... *shivers* ^_^

Perfect Chemistry was one of my favourite reads of 2010. I just absolutely adore Alex and Brittany!

In *Rules of Attraction*, author Simone Elkeles once again uses the formula of “bad-boy” from wrong side of the tracks meets middle-class “good girl”. However, while I really enjoyed this book, it lacked that sizzling, combustible magic that was *Perfect Chemistry*, for me.

Carlos Fuentes is a rebel who loves living on the edge. He is forced to move to Boulder, Colorado, to live with his older brother, Alex, to finish off his senior year of high school. On his first day of school, Carlos gets assigned to Kiara Westford, who is to be his “peer guide”. Kiara is an avid hiker, dresses in baggy T-shirts and hiking boots, and is wholesome – definitely *not* Carlos’ type.

When Carlos ends up getting into some trouble, he moves in with the Westford family, as part of the REACH program. Through living in close proximity to each other, Carlos and Kiara get to know each, and well, much to both their surprises, sparks eventually fly and they end up falling for each other. Hey, this is a YA Romance! ^_^

Like in *Perfect Chemistry*, I really enjoyed the alternating point-of-views that allows the reader into both Carlos’ and Kiara’s heads. Simone Elkeles is really connected with her “inner teen”. Her writing keeps me engaged and makes me remember what it was like to be a teen falling in love.

I didn’t like Carlos much from the snippet I got in *Perfect Chemistry* and wasn’t sure how much I would like this book, but ended up really enjoying it. The reason I love Alex so much more is because he didn’t *want* to be in a gang, but felt he had no choice. He wore a “mask” to convince others he was bad, yet longed for something more in his life. His internal struggle moved me so much...plus, he was so gosh-darned sexy! ^_^

Whereas, while Carlos was a hottie, too, I felt that he had an attitude problem and enjoyed being a "badass". I really enjoyed watching Carlos' growth throughout this book. Though at the end of the day, Alex is still my *numero uno* Fuentes brother, *mi corazon*. Aahh...Alex... *sighs*

I loved Kiara. She is the kind of girl I could see myself having been friends with in high school. She is smart, funny, strong, determined and caring. Though, actually, her love of cars and hiking wouldn't have aligned with my interests of reading and talking about hot guys, at that age. Oh, wait, those are *still* my interests! LOL

I really liked Kiara's best friend, Tuck, and her adorable younger brother, Brandon.

The epilogue was sweet but was a little corny.

But what I most especially loved, was getting more of Alex and Brittany in this book and seeing them in college, even though things were not smooth sailing. I loved the realism of their relationship. They are one of my favourite YA couples. I just love them!

All in all, *Rules of Attraction* was funny, romantic, angsty, and tugged at my heartstrings, just at the right moments. I happily recommend this YA series for adults who enjoy reading YA and want a sexier, grittier read, and for older teens.

I'm looking forward to the youngest Fuentes brother's (Luis') book, out on **24th May 2011 16th August 2011**:

Love the cover! It seems that in this 3rd book, Luis Fuentes is the "good boy" with big dreams who falls for the "wrong" girl. And I already have a cutie image of "my Luis", so bring on *Chain Reaction!* ^_^

I originally had Mark Salling, who plays Puck on *Glee* (Love *Glee!*), in my mind as Carlos, as he has the same sort of attitude. But Mel, who commented on my Perfect Chemistry review, led me to a new Carlos (Thanks, Mel!).

My Carlos (Marlon Teixeira)

My Kiara (Hayley Erin)

Some of my favourite quotes/scenes:

"We kiss all the time." I clear my throat, then add, "We just...do it in private."

"A smug expression crosses his face. "I don't buy it for a second, 'cause if you were my girlfriend and a stud like me was livin' in your house, I'd kiss you in front of the guy every chance I got as a reminder."

"A reminder of w-w-what?"

"That you were mine."

...

"Tell me somethin' you do that would shock me."

"She sits back on the couch. "Shock you?"

"Yeah. Shock me to the core."

"She sits up on her knees and leans toward me. "I've thought about you, Carlos," she whispers in my ear.

"At night, in bed. I think about kissing you, our tongues sliding against each other's, while your hands are buried in my hair. When I think about feeling those ripples in your naked chest I touch my—"

"Here's more popcorn!" Westford says, barging into the room with two big bowls filled to the rim with freshly popped popcorn.

"Kiara, what are you doing?"

...

"You know about fixing cars, you're athletic, and you know when to shut up."

"That last one isn't a skill."

"Honey, trust me. It's a skill."

...

"La cucaracha, La cucaracha, Ya no puede caminar, porque no tiene, porque le falta, I don't know the rest, la la la la!"

...

"K, The lady at the store said yellow means friendship and red means love. The Rosary is the only thing I own that has value to me. It's yours. I'm yours. C."

...

Reading Order for the series:

1. Perfect Chemistry - Review [here](#)
2. Rules of Attraction
3. Chain Reaction - Review [here](#)

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Glass says

Damn you Latino boys... hot, tattooed, sweet-talking, Latino boys... Now, no one is going to be good enough!

Kim says

I haven't read a single book by this author that didn't make my stomach do flip flops every few chapters. Can somebody please explain to me how this is possible? I don't do sappy romances. Don't get me wrong, I *love* romantic stuff, but just not too much of it. It's hard to explain, but there is a fine line between OMG WOW and OMG EW. I'm hard to please, yes, what's your point?

Simone Elkeles (I can never read that name without hearing that ridiculous rap video of Perfect Chemistry in my head) only writes about over the top romances. **AND I JUST INHALE IT LIKE IT'S GODDAMN APPLE PIE.**

I look like a 16-year old girl with pigtails while I read her books. I blush, I grin, I giggle, I gasp, I squeal and I live through every moment like they're my own.

GAH. This is so frustrating.

Tatiana says

Best romantic YA book of 2010! Simone Elkeles delivered again, with another rebellious, gorgeous and intelligent Fuentes brother stealing our hearts.

SPOILER ALERT!!! In this second installment of three in the "Perfect Chemistry" YA series, our favorite struggling couple, Alejandro "Alex" Fuentes and Brittany Ellis are back and are now 20 years old and still attending college in Colorado. A minor character in the first book now takes center stage - middle brother Carlos Fuentes, being sent back to the United States from Mexico by his mother and uncle to give him a chance to escape a life of crime and gangs.

In Fuentes style, Carlos immediately makes it clear to big brother Alex and saintly Brittany that he doesn't need them or their sympathy and help, and that he would rather be in Chicago or back in Mexico than see his complacent, do-gooder brother continue on the path of higher learning and a better life. Of course, Carlos doesn't have a choice in the matter, and begins high school immediately, where he meets Kiara, the daughter of Alex's professor. Kiara is a nature girl who gets high on walking, hiking, jogging and any physical activity that keeps her happy and healthy. Add to this, she has two idealistic and organic parents, and one nifty little brother - enough to make Carlos want to gag. Needless to say, Kiara and Carlos don't hit it off, despite poor Kiara's best efforts to be his school buddy his first week in classes. Carlos is soon lured back into bad habits by the disgustingly beautiful Madison, a girl who is nothing but trouble. No sooner than Carlos decides not to take up Madison's offers of her body, Carlos finds himself framed for possession of drugs at school. Before all else is lost and Carlos is headed for prison, in walks Kiara's family to the rescue, offering to take Carlos into their home and rehabilitate him.

"Rules of Attraction" follows a similar pattern of awkward friendship just like Alex and Brittany, but Kiara and Carlos blaze their own trail on the path to true love. Carlos finds an excellent father figure in Professor Westford, a man with his own shady past who has a beautiful family and a great career in academia. Although Carlos rails against the goodness of a family who don't know him but embrace him anyway, he begins to slowly make personal changes, and takes notice of Kiara. Kiara who is true to herself, has her own problems, namely battling with a stuttering problem, being dumped by her jerk of a boyfriend by text, not having any girlfriends to speak of, never has been to a high school dance, and gets picked on at school by the likes of the snobby Madison.

Kiara and Carlos through witty banter, close-up fights, and moments of closeness begin to understand each other better. The romantic scenes are tastefully done, and Elkeles makes sure the message of safe sex is there without hitting you over the head. Never too far away from Carlos' thoughts are his mother and little brother, and his longing for his country that is rife with the crippling problems of the drug trade. Carlos never dismisses his heritage, and his love for Mexico comes through in his shopping and cooking, sharing his culture with the Westfords through dinner. Carlos never denies his Latino heritage, but there is room in his heart for a girl from a vastly different background and color, and you can't help but root for them to find a way to be together forever, much like Alex and Brittany. I highly recommend this book for teenagers, grades 8 and up, especially for Simone Elkeles fans, and for teens looking for an intelligent romance book with enough humor and drama, and a realistic interracial couple that do get their happy ending. Another smash hit for Simone Elkeles!

Flannery says

This book has a lot of similarities to the first in the series, Perfect Chemistry--at the beginning, it felt like the only difference was that Kiara had a stutter. After finishing it, I still feel it was substantially similar in characters and plot but I don't give a crap. I still really liked it.

In other news, I know some people are fans of the cover art in this series but I think it is pretty mortifying. After Perfect Chemistry's cover, where Alex and Brittney are laying on each other in the cover art, I saw this one and thought, "thank goodness I am not living with my Boston roommates anymore--they made fun of me for reading the other one and this one is even more ridiculous!" Did you see the cover for the third book in the series, Chain Reaction? THEY ARE SHOWERING TOGETHER. I would never read that book on the T. (public transportation) Buuuuut, that brings me to something else.

The sexiness. Whoa, mama. I listened to this one on audiobook and it was pretty hot. I enjoyed the romance aspects of this book more than most of the romances I read. What's that you say? That's kind of gross since I'm 27? Well, FU, I don't care what you say. Also, Carlos sounds hot. Alex was hot, too. It stands to reason that Luis will be hot, too. If there is a shower scene in book three, I am totally there. Oh wait, I was there anyway.

Speaking about sounding hot, it was pretty interesting to hear the shifting first person narration in this novel. I've never encountered this in an audiobook before--when Carlos is narrating, a Mexican (well, I didn't look him up, maybe the voice actor just does an amazing accent) man narrates and every character sounds like they would from Carlos' point of view--so Brittney, the professor, Tuck, and Brandon all have quasi-Mexican accents. And when Brittney narrates, the female voice actor impersonates Carlos and Alex's voices.

At first, I felt that it was off-putting but I got used to it over time and I think it actually added to my experience.

Ana says

/Reread in July

Just don't leave me, okay? Everyone leaves me.

Perfect Chemistry and Rules of Attraction. Two of my favorite YA novels. No me arrepiento de nada.

Arlene says

I loved Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles, so when I heard about this sequel needless to say, I picked it up as soon as it hit the stands. I was not disappointed... NOT.ONE.BIT! **Rules of Attraction** is funny, romantic, edgy and unforgettable! I loved the dialog, pranks and slapstick funny scenes throughout the novel, but most of all, I loved the sincere moments between bad-boy Carlos and goodie two shoes Kiara. It's a page turner that will leave you sad at the end, but only because you've finished the book so quickly.

In Rules of Attraction, we meet Alex's hot headed and rebellious younger brother Carlos. He arrives in Colorado to live with his brother, but immediately lands himself in trouble with the law after a school drug bust where he was clearly framed. Carlos meets Kiara who is so opposite of anyone he ever imagined falling for and through a series of circumstances, finds himself living with her family because of the good graces of her father who wants to give Carlos the second chance he feels he deserves. This begins Carlos and Kiara's rollercoaster of a ride with its fair share of ups and downs.

This was such a great sequel to Perfect Chemistry, and I loved revisiting two of my fave characters, Alex and Britt. But most of all, what a great cover to the book! I loved it because it captured one of the most endearing moments in the story between the two main characters. Oh! AND great title, as it serves to remind us there are no rules of attraction, it just happens naturally. Awesome read that I recommend without hesitation.

Kaya Dimitrova says

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Laura says

Everyone knows by now how much I adore my book boyfriends. I fall, swoon, and crush often and hard. Let's see there was Thomas, Griggs, Shawn, Josh, Conrad, Dimitri, Alex....well you see where this is going. Giggle, giggle. So this might shock a few people—it surprised me—but Rules of Attraction grabbed my heart and got all of my 5 shiny stars for Kiara.

Finally a main female character in a romance I could identify with, be proud of, root for, and want as my new bff! This girl kicked ass! A character that can fix and talk cars, speak her mind, stand up for herself, and pull off the perfect prank gets buckets of love from me. Simone Elkeles created a character that went after her man with honesty, an open heart, and just put herself out there. I admire that. This chica even has a cool car! I do hope she never repairs the car door though—hehe—I have always wanted a getaway car where you have to crawl through the window to get in. Still hoping Santa will come through for me on that one! :D

Now do not get me wrong, Carlos and Kiara had oolala, “light-up-the-night-sky” chemistry that made this book sizzle and come to life. I loved how they challenged and inspired each other. Believe me—the famous Fuentes sex appeal definitely made this an entertaining ride. Carlos’s smirk, abs, and attitude made me smile and blush. The boy has it going on! I believe Carlos said it best though: “a hot bod and a face that could make angels weep”. He is that and so much more.

For me, the book also held a strong message of caring, giving, volunteering, and just sharing your heart. Carlos’s story made me realize what a little help or act of love can do to someone in need or a little lost in this world. It is a feeling that stuck with me. Any book that can inspire readers to maybe give of themselves and put out a helping hand is a joy to come across.

I cannot wait to continue this series and meet baby brother in book three!

MelissaB says

Rules of Attraction was a good story that I enjoyed reading but I didn't think Carlos and Kiara had the crazy chemistry that Alex and Brittany did. So the romance wasn't as satisfying and electric. Carlos was also not as sympathetic a character as Alex because I felt like Alex only did bad things because he had no other choice while Carlos acted like a punk just because he wanted to. But overall the story was a good read that I enjoyed a lot.

We got to see more of Alex and Brittany as they are both in college. They hit a rough patch in their relationship when Alex doesn't want to meet with her parents because he is afraid she will realize she can do better than him but they work things out when she convinces Alex that she wants to be with him no matter when anyone thinks and she refuses to hide their relationship at all. So by the end they are fine :) They just have such great chemistry as a couple, it was great seeing more of them.

Elle says

SIMONE ELKELES: Hola, Elle!

ELLE: Oh. Hi Simone Elkeles.

SIMONE ELKELES: WTF, Elle? You gave my first book in the series, Perfect Chemistry, only two stars? Explain yourself, Senorita.

ELLE: Well, Simone Elkeles, I just thought it was a bit...

SIMONE ELKELES: I know, I know. I hear you, cariño. It was too intensely POWERFUL a novel for your mind. I accept.

ELLE: um, actually, no... it was more that I...

SIMONE ELKELES: Si, chica. I feel you. I suspect the hot-teen-sex-on-filthy-garage-floor scene was far too EXTREME for you.

ELLE: Well no, not really. In fact I kinda' thought it was a bit lame and...

SIMONE ELKELES: And were you not AROUSED by the Adonis I created in Alex? Did he not get your *sangre* going?

ELLE: Well, y'know Simone, it takes a bit more than a 17 year old boy to...

SIMONE ELKELES: And then there's my EPIC CLEVERNESS. Because they meet in Chemistry class and I titled the book: Perfect Chemistry! DO YOU SEE WHAT I DID THERE?

ELLE: Yes. Bravo Simone.

SIMONE ELKELES: And then you must have been completely PERPLEXED by all the twists and turns and UNEXPECTED occurrences throughout the journey?

ELLE: Yes well... all that nonsense aside. Can we talk about Rules of Attraction now? Because this one was so much better and I really enjoyed...

SIMONE ELKELES: Si! Indeed, my talent has no end. I will continue on until I have achieved complete Young Adult Romance world domination!

ELLE: ...right. But as I was saying, I was quite impressed with...

SIMONE ELKELES: And they will name an entire genre after my gift! It shall be called: Young Adult SIMANCE!

ELLE: ...

SIMONE ELKELES: Did you notice how I gave the heroine a stutter so that I would have a tool with which to demonstrate the IMMENSE HEART ACHE from within our little chica? Again, my cleverness is beyond all proportion. Is it not?

ELLE: ...

SIMONE ELKELES: Your silence is praise to my humble ears, Senorita. Now, I must warn you. You simply MUST prepare yourself for the third instalment of my grand trilogy of greatness. Behold: Chain Reaction

ELLE: There's *another* brother?

SIMONE ELKELES: Si!

ELLE: Is it going to be the *same* f'king story with the *same* f'king characters and the *same* f'king outcome?

SIMONE ELKELES: ... Si!

ELLE: Balls.

SIMONE ELKELES: Are you telling me that you will no longer succumb to my magnetic pull?

ELLE: I haven't really decided. I think I might just wait and see what other...

SIMONE ELKELES: Nonsense! I insist that you YEILD to my supremacy. I will be keeping my obscenely talented EYE on you, my little *villano*. Hasta luego!

ELLE: ... balls.

Dear Goodreaders,

I wish to make it perfectly clear that I have not nor have I ever claimed that I have interviewed Simone Elkeles. The above dialogue is intended as humorous fiction.

Simone Elkeles did not actually say any of the above (to my knowledge, o_O).

Although... I bet she wishes she had thought up YOUNG ADULT SIMANCE herself, ay?

Regards, Elle

***** EDIT *****

The lunacy: <http://coffee2words.wordpress.com/201...>

Susane Colasanti says

This series is so hot it's on fire.

Katie says

Before I read the book

Anyone else agree that after this she should write a third book about the youngest Fuentes, Luis?

Yay, she is writing another book about Luis!

Review Time (I like to give pointers on how I like my reviews to be read in brackets, feel free to ignore my suggestions)

Aaahhh, my Fuentes boys, could you **be** anymore perfect? (Yes, I am referencing Chandler). Perhaps it is a *little* bit formulaic, **but**, it's a very nice formula, isn't it? (channelling Salad fingers here, aaahhh, rusty spoons). As you can see above, I am really looking forward to Chain Reaction (awesome name), *and*, this time it will be Luis reforming a bad girl!, nice huh?

I really loved how Alex and Brittany were in this, best couple ever, but I also thought the relationship between the brothers was amazing. Unlike Alex, Carlos *wants* to be a tough gang member, just like Alex was, but misses the point that Alex did it to protect him and Luis. He gets to discover what he really wants though, and it is very, very sweet (emphasis on the very's please, too lazy for italics). Epilogue is, well, EPIC!, less cheesy than the first book. My only problem is that this one isn't quite as funny as the first, ah well, can't have it every way.
